

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## Wisconsin Chapter

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May 31, 2012

VIA EMAIL and FAX (414) 286-3456; Page 1/6

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### *Proposed resolution ordering the immediate cessation and prohibition of the introduction of sodium silicofluoride or any fluoride compound into water distributed by the Milwaukee Water Works.*

We are writing in staunch opposition of the above-referenced resolution proposing to cease fluoridation of the community water supply in Milwaukee and surrounding communities served by the Milwaukee Water Works.

All children and adults have benefitted from the practice of water fluoridation for over 65 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cite community water supply fluoridation one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The practice is proven to be a safe and inexpensive way to reduce tooth decay for all members of the community, **especially in populations who struggle with access to health and dental care**, like many of your constituents. Simply by drinking fluoridated water or beverages and foods prepared with it, beginning at the age of 6 months, everyone has access to the benefits of fluoride protection.

We know that good preventive oral health, from birth, can determine the overall well-being and cost of providing health care for individuals over the course of their lifetimes. For every \$1 invested in water fluoridation, approximately \$38 is saved in future dental treatments.

In Milwaukee, its surrounding communities and elsewhere, fluoridating the community water supply is an important element of ensuring good oral health for everyone, not just those with regular access to preventive services. To end this practice would be pound-foolish from a cost standpoint. More critically, it would jeopardize the health of the approximately 850,000 people in 16 communities.

May 31, 2012

**Milwaukee Common Council  
Steering and Rules Committee**

*Proposed resolution ordering the immediate cessation and prohibition of the introduction of sodium silicofluoride or any fluoride compound into water distributed by the Milwaukee Water Works.*

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Other preeminent experts also weigh in strongly in favor of fluoridation, including:

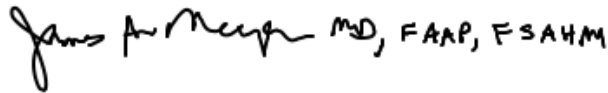
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)  
American Dental Association (ADA)  
American Medical Association (AMA)  
American Public Health Association (APHA)  
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
International Association of Dental Research (IADR)  
National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)  
World Health Organization (WHO)

We urge you to consider the ramifications of this proposal. Support the best possible public health for **all** your constituents, now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS  
Wisconsin Chapter



James Meyer, MD, FAAP  
President

Attachments:

- (1) WIAAP Position Statement: Fluoridated Water
- (2) American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Fluoridated Water Policy